

IN THE CLAIMS:

The following listing of claims replaces all prior listings of claims in the present application:

Listing of Claims:

1. Cancelled

2. Cancelled

3. (Currently Amended) The cylindrical separator as claimed in claim ~~[[2]]~~ **17**, wherein said sheets comprise at least one layer of a semi-permeable membrane and cellophane in addition to said non-woven sheet material.

4. Cancelled

5. (Previously Presented) The cylindrical separator as claimed in claim **17**, comprising a thermoplastic sealant arranged at the central zone on the outer surface of said bottom part.

6. Cancelled

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12. Cancelled

13. Cancelled

14. Cancelled

15. Cancelled

16. Cancelled

17. (Currently Amended) A cylindrical separator for cylindrical cells, comprising a cylindrical body constituted by a layered structure of a plurality of turns of at least a non-woven sheet material placed onto one another and wound together without any binder, and having a bottom part closing a first end of said cylindrical body, wherein said bottom part is an integral extension of said cylindrical body, and with the wound layers of said bottom part having a uniform and even bend along an entire circumferential section of the cylindrical body and fused by heat, and wherein said bottom part has a curved continuous inner and outer surfaces and a substantially uniform thickness.

18. (Previously Amended) The cylindrical separator as claimed in claim 17, wherein the bottom part has an outwardly curved shape.

19. Cancelled